

January 17, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 31 (RUNNER) – SCHOOL FINANCE EQUALIZATION –
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – (ITEM NO. 5, AGENDA OF JANUARY 21, 2003)**

Item No. 5 on your agenda for Tuesday, January 21, 2003, is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich which was continued from the January 14, 2003 meeting at the request of Supervisor Yaroslavsky.

This memo adds new information to the memo dated January 13, 2003 (attached). The Los Angeles Unified School District just informed us they oppose AB 31 (Runner), AB 15 (Houston and Pacheco) and AB 48 (Simitian) because these bills will distribute \$203 million based on the new formula that will reduce funding to school districts that have a higher number of excused absences. Typically these districts are the larger, inner-city districts that serve lower income neighborhoods. The District supports using the old formula which adds the excused absences to the ADA and increases the District's revenues.

According to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, the State would prefer to fund schools based on ADA. Districts with high excused absences successfully argued that they are required to maintain sufficient capacity to accommodate all enrolled students and these mandated costs are not covered by a formula based only on ADA. In their view, adding the excused absences to the ADA would help cover those costs.

Proponents of the new formula argue that excused absences were included in the rate applied to the ADA based on 1996-97 numbers when AB 727 (Rosenthal) was implemented in 1998.

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According to the Author's office and the Assembly Committee on Education, there is no support or opposition on file.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
JL:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 County Office of Education